Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 00377 171706Z

64
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /092 W
---------- 002461
R 171616Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2196

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0377

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, GR
SUBJECT: VRADYNI SUSPENDED UNTIL JUNE 1, 1974

1. ATHENS MILITARY COMMANDER ORDERED JANUARY 12 A SIX-MONTH SUSPENSION OF VRADYNI BEGINNING FROM NEWSPAPER'S CLOSURE DECEMBER 1, 1973. AFTERNOON DAILY CLOSURE BY GOG (ATHENS 8472) WAS WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE LINKED TO A POLITICAL EDITORIAL AND SEPARATE COMMENTARY BY RETIRED COL. D. STAMATELOPOULOS. ORDER OF MILITARY COMMANDER MAJ. GENERAL RAIFALAKIS PROVIDED NO EXPLANATION FOR SUSPENSION. PRESS ACCOUNT POINTED OUT VRADYNI ALTHOUGH ONLY TEMPORARILY BARRED FROM PUBLICATION BECOMES EIGHTH ATHENIAN NEWSPAPER TO CEASE PUBLICATION SINCE APRIL, 1967. OTHERS ARE: KATHIMERINI, MESIMVRINI, ELEFTHERIA, ETHNOS, ATHEINAIKI, AVGHI, AND DEMOKRATIKI ALLAGHI. IN ADDITION SIMERINA, SISTER PAPER OF ELEFTHEROS COSMOS STOPPED PUBLICATION LAST MONTH AS RESULT OF LOW CIRCULATION.

2. AT JANUARY 12 MORNING STAFF MEETING IN VRADYNI EDITORIAL OFFICE, ATHANASSIADES SAID HE WAS NOT GIVEN ANY REASON FOR PAPER'S SUSPENSION, BUT HAD TO ASSUME IT WAS EITHER ONE OR ALL OF FOLLOWING -- STAMATELOPOULOS ARTICLE AND EDITORIAL DECEMBER 1 ISSUE, ATHANASSIADES' REFUSAL OPENLY SUPPORT NEW REGIME, VRADYNI'S PRO-KARAMANLIS STANCE, ATHANASSIADES' CONTINUOUS PHONE CONTACT WITH KARAMANLIS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 00377 171706Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

ON JANUARY 14, MINISTER TO PM RALLIS TOLD PAO THERE WAS ONLY ONE REASON FOR SUSPENSION OF VRADYNI - IOANNIDES' AVERSION TO KARAMANLIS. RALLIS ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH SOME OF ABOVE MIGHT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO DECISION, IN FINAL ANALYSIS IOANNIDES COULD NOT TOLERATE THE ONE ATHENIAN NEWSPAPER WHICH SUPPORTED HIS MOST UNACCEPTABLE OPPONENT.

3. VRADYNI'S SUSPENSION IS SEEN BY SOME JOURNALISTS PRINCIPALLY AS PUNITIVE ACTION SINCE PUBLISHER ATHANASSIADES REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO RECANT OFFENDING EDITORIALS AND TO COMMIT NEWSPAPER TO PRO-GOG LINE. VRADYNI, TRADITIONALLY PRO-ARMED FORCES AND PRO-KARAMANLIS NEWSPAPER SUPPORTED APRIL 21 REVOLUTION IN ITS FIRST YEARS BUT LATER BECAME CRITIC. SINCE SUSPENSION WAS ORDERED UNDER STATE OF SIEGE, ATHANASSIADES IS PRESUMABLY NOT OBLIGED TO MAKE SEVERENCE PAYMENTS TO STAFF, WHO WILL RECEIVE THEIR LAST PAY CHECKS JANUARY 15.
TASCA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, THE PRESS, VRADYNI
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS00377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740136/aaaabhtc.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VRADYNI SUSPENDED UNTIL JUNE 1, 1974
TAGS: PINS, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005